

Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:DEZWEIFEL/HLK
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S/S-0 FLEISCHER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN

S E C R E T STATE 035468

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS PGOV, IS, EG, US

SUBJECT: READ-OUT ON SADAT VISIT

REF: (A) STATE 31717; (B) STATE 31737

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON MET WIT; FRG AMBASSADOR
VON STADEN FEBRUARY 6 TO GIVE LATTER A "READ-OUT" ON
SADAT VISIT.

2. ATHERTON CAREFULLY REVIEWED POINTS MADE IN REFTEL (A),
COMMENTED ON THE "ATMOSPHERICS," AND MADE FOLLOWING
ADDITIONAL POINTS DRAWING ON REFTEL (B), WHICH VON
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STADEN AGREED TO TREAT IN CLOSE CONFIDENCE.

--SADAT ARRIVED IN RATHER DISCOURAGED MOOD. BASED ON
CAIRO CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM JUST PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE
FOR U.S. THIS DID NOT COME AS A SURPRISE TO US. INDEED,
UPON HIS ARRIVAL HERE, THERE WAS SOME UNCERTAINTY ABOUT

HIS DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS
SET IN MOTION BY HIS JERUSALEM VISIT.

--IN OUR JUDGMENT, AS A RESULT OF HIS EXTENSIVE TALKS
WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, SADAT HAS RENEWED HIS DECISION
TO CONTINUE WITH THE PROCESS.

--PRESIDENT CARTER REASSURED SADAT CONCERNING THE USG
POSITION ON SETTLEMENTS AND THE NEED ADEQUATELY TO
ADDRESS THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM, AS WELL AS THE
ADMINISTRATION'S DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE TO PLAY AN
ACTIVE ROLE. AT THE SAME TIME, HE STRESSED THAT THERE
IS NO SHORT CUT IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS; IN A
DIPLOMATIC WAY, PRESIDENT CARTER MADE CLEAR TO SADAT
THAT THE DECISION TO BREAK OFF THE JERUSALEM TALKS
HAD NOT HELPED SADAT'S IMAGE IN THE U.S. IT IS NOT
REALISTIC TO "NEGOTIATE BY SURPRISE...., WE BELIEVE
THAT SADAT GOT THE POINT AND RECOGNIZES THAT IN ORDER
TO ACHIEVE FULL BENEFIT OF THE USG ROLE, CLOSE COORDINATION
IS REQUIRED.

--DURING TALKS, U.S. SIDE ALSO SOUGHT TO EXPLAIN IN SOME
DETAIL THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS FACING THE BEGIN REGIME.
WE TRY TO ACCOMPLISH A PARALLEL GOAL IN OUR TALKS WITH THE
GOI, EXPLAINING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE POLITICAL
CONSTRAINTS ON PRESIDENT SADAT'S ACTIONS.

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--FINAL STATEMENT TO BE ISSUED FEBRUARY 7 AT CONCLUSION
OF SADAT VISIT WILL MAKE THREE BASIC POINTS: (A) REITERATION OF USG POSITION ON ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS;
(B) RESTATEMENT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S ASWAN FORMULATION
ON PALESTINIAN ISSUE; AND (C) AFFIRMATION THAT USG
POSITION IS THAT UN RESOLUTION 242 IS APPLICABLE ON
ALL FRONTS (I.E., INCLUDING WEST BANK AND GAZA, A
POINT ON WHICH OUR VIEWS ARE SOMEWHAT AT VARIANCE WITH
THOSE OF THE GOI.)

--IN ADDITION TO MAJOR EFFORT AIMED AT PRODUCING
MUTUALLY AGREEABLE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES, ATHERTON
WILL TAKE OPPORTUNITY OF HIS RETURN TO AREA QUIETLY
TO EXPLORE WITH EGYPTIANS, ISRAELIS, JORDANIANS
AND SAUDIS QUESTION OF GUIDELINES FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON
WEST BANK/GAZA/PALESTINIAN ISSUES -- I.E., HOW TO MOVE
BEYOND DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES -- WITH VIEW TO
ENCOURAGING HUSSEIN TO JOIN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

--WE HAVE ENCOURAGED EGYPTIANS EITHER TO COMMENT ON
BEGIN SELF-RULE PLAN FOR WEST BANK AND GAZA OR,

ALTERNATIVELY, TO COME UP WITH COUNTERPROPOSALS.
ALTHOUGH EGYPTIANS ARE RELUCTANT TO DO SO IN ABSENCE
OF JORDANIAN AND/OR PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION, DISCUSSION
OF THIS SUBJECT MAY BE NECESSARY TO GET DECLARATION OF
PRINCIPLES THAT WILL PROVIDE BASIS FOR BROADENING
NEGOTIATIONS AS EGYPTIANS DESIRE AND RECONVENING OF
POLITICAL COMMITTEE TALKS. ONCE OTHER PARTIES ARE
INVOLVED IN DIRECT DISCUSSION, SADAT WILL HAVE "LARGER

UMBRELLA" UNDER WHICH WORK OF MILITARY COMMITTEE CAN
PROCEED. AT PRESENT, WE UNDERSTAND MILITARY COMMITTEE
WILL DEAL WITH QUESTIONS OTHER THAN SINAI SETTLEMENTS,
DISCUSSION OF WHICH WE GATHER WILL BE DEFERRED. ON
EGYPTIAN ARMS REQUEST, THIS IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION;
SADAT IS FULLY AWARE OF FACT THAT ANY SUCH PROGRAM WOULD
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BE SUBJECT TO CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL. WE ASSUME THAT
SADAT WILL TRY TO GET A FEEL FOR WHAT CONGRESS MIGHT
APPROVE BEFORE COMING TO US WITH MORE SPECIFIC ARMS
REQUEST. VANCE

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